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such copies would be used for purposes of study and investigation; but the right to publish any or all copies without special permission from the Director of the Lick Observatory would not attach to the sale.

The collection of photographs in our possession is so extensive that it is not practicable to supply a detailed list. It includes the following subjects: The Sun; The Moon; Total Solar Eclipses (of January, 1889; December, 1889; April, 1893; January, 1898; May, 1900; May, 1901); Milky Way; Comets; Meteors; Spectra of nebulæ, comets, new stars, bright-line stars, coronas, stars for radial velocities, etc.; Crossley reflector photographs of nebulæ, star clusters, asteroids, etc., and of the nebulosity surrounding *Nova Persei;* Buildings, instruments, and views at the Lick Observatory; Miscellaneous.

Orders and inquiries may be addressed to the Director.

July 1, 1902. W. W. CAMPBELL.

NOTE ON THE SPECTRUM OF *NOVA PERSEI.*

Spectrograms of *Nova Persei* were secured at intervals during the fall and winter, up to January 7th. The spectrum remained, without appreciable change, as described by us in *Bulletin* No. 8. In that publication attention was called to the presence of the fine dark H calcium absorption-line; and the opinion was ventured that perhaps the corresponding K line was "absent only by reason of the fact that there the calcium vapor has nothing to absorb." To test this point, Mr. WRIGHT made a long exposure, sufficient to record the continuous spectrum in the H and K region. The fine dark K line is present.

In this connection it would be exceedingly interesting to know whether the absorption-lines of calcium, sodium, and other elements would be detected in the spectra of well-known gaseous nebulæ,—the exposures being long enough to record the continuous portions of their spectra.

W. W. CAMPBELL.
July 1, 1902. W. H. WRIGHT.

D. O. MILLS EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

The 37¼-inch Cassegrain reflecting-telescope mirror, to be used by the Mills Expedition in determining the radial velocities of the brighter stars south of —30° Declination, was completed by the John A. Brashear Company on June 20th. The 9¾-inch convex secondary mirror has likewise been completed. Both are en route to Mt. Hamilton. The telescope mounting, designed in general plan by the Director, and in detail by the builders, HARRON, RICKARD & McCONE, of San Francisco, has for several months been set up for trial in the rear of the Observatory buildings. A three-prism spectrograph, designed by the Director, optical parts by BRASHEAR, and mounting by our instrument-maker, has been completed and tested. A modern steel dome, 30 feet in diameter, has been constructed by the Warner & Swasey Company. It is hoped that the expedition may be able to sail early in August for Valparaiso, to occupy a station near Santiago, Chile.

July 1, 1902. W. W. CAMPBELL.

NOTE ON VARIABLE STARS.

Harvard College Observatory Circular No. 65, under date of May 6th, contains the announcement of an interesting new variable star of the *Algol* type:—

> "A striking illustration of the value of the library of glass photographs collected at this observatory during the past seventeen years has been shown within the last few days. Comet *a* 1902 was discovered by Dr. BROOKS on April 14th, and it was found that a photograph had been taken here on April 3d with the 8-inch Draper telescope, approximately in the direction from which the comet came. An examination of this plate was accordingly made by Mrs. FLEMING, superposing it upon another plate of the same region taken with the same instrument on March 7, 1900. No trace of the comet was found, and in fact the elements now indicate that it was a little beyond the region covered by the photograph. One star, however, in the constellation *Lacerta*, according to HEIS, but in *Cygnus* according to the *Uranometria Nova*, appeared faint on the early plate and bright on that taken later. A further examination showed that this object was the north-preceding component of $+43°.4101$. Its position for 1900 is R. A. = $21^h\ 55.2^m$, Dec. = $+43°52'$. The difference in Right Ascension of the two components is about $2^s.0$; the difference in Declination, $0'.3$. A further examination showed that the star was generally bright and constant in light, so that it must be a variable of the *Algol* type."

An examination showed that this star had been photographed 407 times. On 388 of the plates the star was of maximum brightness (8.9), but on the other 19 plates the magnitude was less than 8.9. From a discussion of this